



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 September 2007
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 September 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 July 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communication to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ban Ki-moon**



Annex

**Letter dated 14 September 2007 from the Secretary-General
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the
Secretary-General**

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 31 July 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 July 2007.
2. As at 30 July 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,350. This includes 2,482 troops from non-NATO countries.
3. In terms of the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions, it should be noted that Argentina has withdrawn the last of its staff officers in the headquarters of the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Political situation

4. After attempts to achieve a new Security Council resolution on Kosovo were temporarily suspended on 20 July 2007, the Contact Group agreed, on 25 July, to open a new period of negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina. The Commander of KFOR, Lieutenant General Roland Kather, participated on 9 July in an informal discussion on the current security situation in Kosovo with the Security Council in New York.
5. In spite of persistent tension in Kosovo as a result of continued uncertainty over the outcome of the future status process, the summer has been quiet security-wise. Water shortages remain a priority for municipal leaders, particularly given the recent forest fires. The insufficient amount of electrical power remains of concern, as the need to import electricity incurred a financial deficit.

Security situation

6. No incidents of violence or threats against KFOR were recorded in June 2007 and the threat level against KFOR is assessed as low.
7. A total of 337 incidents related to drugs (26), counterfeit currency (33), human trafficking (1), smuggling (15), explosions (2), miscellaneous criminal incidents (95), illegal weapons possession (61), weapons and ammunitions found (15) and unexploded ordnance (89) were reported during this period, compared to 306 incidents during the previous month.

KFOR operations

8. The operational tempo remained steady. KFOR remains vigilant in maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement through the conduct of framework operations as well as intelligence-driven operations. During the month of July, KFOR conducted 61 search operations, 14,792 vehicle checks and 210 joint activities. The Italian KFOR Battalion redeployed following an operational rehearsal completed on 21 July. Continued vigilance is maintained to detect any signs of disturbance.

Compliance

9. On 26 July, the Disciplinary Board decided on three major acts of non-compliance with the statement of principles of the KFOR Commander and UNMIK regulation 1999/8. The first was a case of misuse of Kosovo Protection

Corps (KPC) equipment and facilities and assault, causing bodily injuries to another KPC member. The other acts of non-compliance were two cases of unauthorized absence, one of which involved fraudulent use of medical advice to justify the absence. In the latter case, the Board decided to dismiss the two individuals (both Kosovo Serbs). Pending criminal investigations, the Disciplinary Board confirmed 11 suspension orders without pay issued by the Deputy Commander of KPC.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. There was no recruitment campaign during July 2007.

11. The current active personnel establishment is 2,914. There are 196 (6.83 per cent) active ethnic minority members (172 male, 24 female). The percentage of minority members within KPC remains short of the goal set by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and there are 113 open slots left in the active personnel establishment list. The reserve list includes 2,000 positions, of which 1,892 are already filled (including 48 ethnic minority members, which equates to 2.45 per cent).

12. During the reporting period, KFOR has been deployed, in support of KPC, to numerous wildfires across Kosovo. KPC conducted 70 firefighting operations involving more than 600 KPC members and approximately 50 vehicles.

13. Current training activities continue as planned and future training opportunities were discussed at meetings involving KPC, the Office of the KPC Coordinator and KFOR. KPC is still waiting for a donor country to increase the number of English language classes for the rest of 2007.

14. During the month of July there were six ceremonies involving 179 KPC members and 300 civilians. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

15. The situation remains calm and quiet but the political uncertainty related to the future status talks may raise tension in the short term. Energy and water shortages remain a priority for municipal leaders and have worsened over the past month because of widespread forest fires. KFOR offered manpower and aircraft support to assist in dealing with the fires.